**Africa RISING End-of-Program Close-out**

**Venue: One of the AR implementation countries**

**Date: October 2022**

**Participation:**

* Internal project/program audiences [AR project partners, USAID team,
* External audiences

**Format:**

* 2/3-day hybrid meeting with in-person participation + virtual (for those not able to travel)
  + Day 1 focused on project-based achievements/ key studies from each project (tuned towards internal audiences);
  + Day 2 focused on key program outputs from Africa RISING/ bigger picture highlights and synthesis actions (tuned towards both internal + external audiences); and
  + Day 3 focused on higher level R&D questions/discussions on systems research capitalizing on the lessons learned from AR/ bigger picture strategic messages/ how to move forward the key outputs from AR (tuned towards external audiences). Also, consider a panel discussion of 3/4 people to talk about transitioning AR outputs into the One CGIAR Initiatives and others beyond?

**Suggested topics/thematic discussions:**

* Cross-regional synthesis/analysis (the publications and materials being developed by the Chief Scientists)
* Documentation of successes (at project and program level)
* Africa RISING springboards to the One CGIAR initiatives
* Partnerships (how to take research to farmers/deliver more effectively data monitoring experiences)
* Systems processes and thinking SIAF (e.g., work by Peter & Jim Hammond)
* Ex-ante analysis and return on investment (Carlo)
* Unique selling points for SI? Why would you want to pursue it as opposed to other approaches?